



March 22, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, a grassroots public policy organization with 1.5 million members and supporters committed to strengthening the family and advancing Judeo-Christian values, I write to inform you of our support for the American Health Care Act (AHCA) and our intention to score the vote on its passage as a vote to repeal and replace Obamacare.

The AHCA defunds Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the Western world, an organization under scrutiny for allegedly violating multiple federal laws. It ends federal taxpayer subsidies of abortion that have assaulted the consciences and violated the faith of millions of Americans. It effectively restores Hyde Amendment protections to insure that taxpayer funds are not used to perform abortions, and it empowers the Secretary of Health and Services to end regulations forcing faith-based charities such as the Little Sisters of the Poor to subsidize medical services to which they object as a matter of their faith in God.

It also reforms Medicaid to give the states greater flexibility to provide quality health care for the neediest among us. This is consistent with the principle of subsidiarity, which calls on those of faith to meet the needs of the poor in a manner closest to those in need, not through a wasteful, inefficient and distant bureaucracy.

Faith & Freedom strongly supports the AHCA's elimination of the numerous abortion-subsidizing and abortion-expanding provisions of Obamacare. According to the Government Accounting Office, over 1,000 federally subsidized plans nationwide were covering elective abortion in 2014. Obamacare contains multiple provisions authorizing federal subsidies for abortion, and abortion-expanding regulatory mandates. The American Health Care Act would repeal these provisions. The AHCA would also restore the principles of the longstanding Hyde Amendment and prohibit any future federal tax credits from subsidizing the purchase of plans that cover elective abortion.

Finally, health care ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority---in the case of Medicaid, the states. Under the American Health Care Act, open-ended Medicaid checks from Washington will be replaced by a system of per capita spending with specific funding for the elderly, blind and disabled, children, and the able-bodied adults who were



FAITH & FREEDOM COALITION

enrolled under ObamaCare. We strongly support allowing states greater flexibility in using Medicaid funds that will permit innovations promoting personal responsibility such as work requirements and premium participation similar to those in Florida and Indiana, consistent with the principles of subsidiarity and federalism.

This is not a perfect bill. Faith & Freedom Coalition recognizes that additional changes may be made to the bill before it reaches the House floor. However, if the pro-life, pro-family and pro-religious freedom provisions listed above are retained and no objectionable new components are added, we will include the vote on the American Health Care Act in our Congressional Score and voter guides as a key vote in the 115th Congress.

Thank you for considering the views of our millions of members and supporters, for whom repealing Obamacare is one of their top legislative concerns.

At your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Reed".

Ralph Reed
Chairman
Faith & Freedom Coalition